



Top comics leave them laughing during the first night of the Soul Beach Music Festival

Comedy was king on Friday night as Alex Thomas, Earthquake and headliner Tommy Davidson took center stage on the beach at the Surfside for the first night of the Soul Beach Music Festival, 2006. Joining them to open the show was local performer “Toby,” winner of the “Aruban Idol” Sparkling Tour 2005, and his fantastic performance of “Hey” by Usher, that won him the competition, had the audience warmed up for some great entertainment.

The laughs came fast and furious as these three noted entertainers made their pointed comments that are not only universal experiences, but aspects of life that are uniquely ethnic. An observance that was made by all three was the state of modern music, from Alex Thomas’ comments of how the language of rap is now profanity that he would never have imagined hearing in his youth, to Tommy Davidson lamenting the loss of “real soul” that was trademark of some of the great soul performers in the past.

Relationships, sex, children, music, Aruba, and simply the black experience were only a few of the topics they touched, and Tommy Davidson, true to his training as an actor showed an incredible talent for mimicry. His imitation of a typical evening of “Sabado Sensacional” on Venezuelan television brought tears of laughter to eyes of the crowd.

Alex Thomas was a worthy host, introducing the other comedians. His energetic and physical performance was the perfect contrast to the thoughtful and socially conscious humor of Earthquake, whose experience in parenting has obviously affected his point of view, and his wit. The life experiences of each of the comedians, of all comedians, everywhere, obviously color their routines, and this created an interesting contrast between the three and produced a rich font of humor for the audience to enjoy. The audience took away not only aching sides from laughing so much, but also some serious issues to consider as well; couched in humor, but still containing a message.

Now in its sixth year, the Soul Beach Music Festival was begun by Sinbad back in 1996 with his name on it, and he brought it back to Aruba for an unprecedented second year. The initial focus of the festival was comedy, but it has progressed to bringing to Aruba the top R & B performers both present and past, such as Grammy winner Alicia Keys, who is Sunday night’s headliner. Organizers Steve and Donna Adkins have done a superlative job in lining up three terrific comedians that carried on the Sinbad tradition of great humor and the promise of a terrific show in Paradise, that keeps people coming back year after year.